



January 2011

Dear Friends:

As many of you are aware, I am excited to announce that I have recently been elected by my colleagues unanimously to serve as Council Chair on the Prince George's County Council. In my position I will continue Working for YOU the District 4 community and Prince George's County. I would like to thank you for all of your support and I look forward to continuing to Work for YOU in my new leadership position.

During my Chairmanship I along with the Council will concentrate on making this County more business friendly to allow for that economic growth we so desperately need and deserve. We must continue to improve on the strides our educational system has made. Over the last 4 years we made substantial progress in our public schools and community college, but there is more work to be done. Our educational systems can get to Greatness and during my Chairmanship we will focus on how we can be the most effective collaborative partner in this important endeavor.

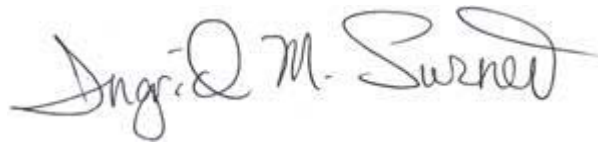
Working for YOU, this Council will join County Executive Rushern Baker, Federal, State and local elected officials, business owners, engaged citizens and all stakeholders as we continue our journey on that path to Greatness. It will take teamwork and a collaborative approach but Greatness is in our reach. The Prince George's Council is aware that you as constituents expect a lot from us, I am expecting a lot from us and I am confident that together we can and will deliver for YOU. Every action this Council takes will be grounded in the notion that We are Working for YOU, the citizens of Prince George's County.

Furthermore, I plan to ensure that your voice, the residents of Prince George's County, is heard by serving as the First Vice President of the Maryland Association of Counties this year. With this simultaneous leadership position, I will strive to continue to move Prince George's County forward for a better tomorrow.

Working for YOU continues to be an honor and a privilege. As always, please enjoy this month's E-News as you should find some updates about things happening in our community and some interesting events for you and your family to participate in. If you

have information that you would like to be included in future newsletters that will be beneficial to other residents, please email the information to arpannell@co.pg.md.us.

Working for YOU!



Ingrid M. Turner

News You can Use

Franklin Park Initiates Shuttle Buses for Maryland Students

Students living in Franklin Park now have a new way to reach their College Park campus, with the establishment of regular bus shuttles. The new management of *Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station* has instituted the free service, underwriting the costs to offer students living in the community an alternative to driving.

Student residents can take the new shuttle to the University of Maryland, catching the bus at 12 locations in Franklin Park and hopping off at any one of six stops on the College Park campus.

New management by Fieldstone Properties is focusing on improving the lifestyle of the community. Apartments are continuing to be upgraded with new kitchens, baths, granite countertops and hardwood floors, as units are vacated. Common area amenities are also being enhanced, and management is paying special attention to security throughout the expansive complex. The



Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner was happy to visit Samuel Ogle Middle School where she presented the Boys Baseball Team with Certificates of Recognition for their championship, hard work and dedication to the Samuel Ogle Middle School Rams 2010 Baseball Team.

community, already known for its open green spaces, will benefit from additional landscaping, new signage and parking lot resurfacing. For questions or additional information please contact Mr. Charlie Maier of Franklin Park at 301-424-4141 or email at Charlie@MaierWarnerPR.com.



Police Urge Caution While Warming Up Unattended Vehicles

The Prince George's County Police Department is reminding residents to maintain good safety habits as we approach the winter season. The wintry season is the time of year when residents begin to warm up their vehicles during the early morning hours. Auto theft is mainly a crime of opportunity and this practice unfortunately creates a perfect opportunity for car thieves. During these economic times, leaving a vehicle unattended is dangerous and costly. According to the Maryland Transportation Article 21-1101 (a) any person leaving a vehicle unattended with the keys in the ignition is subject to a \$70.00 ticket and one point toward his or her driving record.



The Samuel Ogle Middle School Lady Rams 2010 Softball Team was also presented with Certificates of Recognition for their championship, hard work and dedication by Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner



On Monday, December 6, 2010 Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner was sworn in by Clerk of the Circuit Court Marilyn Bland to serve her second term as Council Member for District 4. Council Chair Turner is pictured with Her mother, June Turner, Chief of Staff, Tomeka Bumbry, her brother Michael Turner, nieces and nephew.

In Prince George's County, auto theft rates continue to decline and officers credit the continued progress partially to citizens and residents who are increasingly using anti-theft devices, and turning vehicles off and taking car keys with them. As the winter season approaches, officers will periodically conduct enforcement in areas in which auto theft has been a problem and issue citations to those who are leaving their vehicles unattended while warming up. For more information please call the Prince George's County Police Department at 301-772-4710.



On Tuesday, December 7, 2010, Council Member Ingrid M. Turner was unanimously voted as Chair of the Prince George's Council by her peers. Along with Chair Turner, Council Member Eric C. Olson was elected as the Vice Chair of the Council.

Help With Energy Bills

The Maryland Office of Home Energy programs has a number of programs designed to help people pay their energy bills. The amount of assistance depends on the type of heating fuel, household size, yearly energy usage and income.

- **MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MEAP):** Federal funds are distributed to Maryland to assist eligible customers in paying winter heating bills.
- **UTILITY SERVICE PROTECTION PROGRAM (USPP):** Residents eligible for MEAP are eligible for USPP and can receive a natural gas bill for the same amount each month. Payment plans depend on natural gas usage from the previous year and the outstanding balance owed on a customer's gas bill. Customers must complete applications for MEAP in their county.
- **WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE:** Energy-saving measures are provided at no cost to eligible families. For more information on these programs, contact the Maryland Department of Human



Wonderful upgrades are taking place around District 4. In Continuing with her "Promoting Healthy Counties" initiative, Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner is happy to shine the spotlight on a new playground that has recently opened at the South Bowie Community Center located at 1717 Pittsfield Lane, Bowie, MD 20716.

Resources at 1-800-352-1446, the Prince George's County Department of Social Services at 301-909-6300 or visit dhr.state.md.us/meap.

Learn How to Be More Energy Savvy

During these cold winter months it is important to for you to become more 'Energy Savvy'. Here are some examples on how to conserve energy and save money at the same time:

Buy a programmable thermostat and use it to keep your home most comfortable during the hours you are at home and awake. Try setting the temperature at a few degrees higher (summer) or lower (winter) than you presently do. A change of one degree can mean a savings of up to 3%. Also make sure vents are unobstructed.

Turn out the lights when you leave a room. It really can make a difference! Use compact fluorescent bulbs. They're more expensive (\$4-\$6 each) but last six times longer than incandescent bulbs. Replacing your five most used bulbs with fluorescent bulbs can save about \$60 a year. These bulbs also don't burn as hot as traditional bulbs.

Keep appliances, furnaces and air conditioners in good repair. Change filters regularly and when buying new appliances, consider those with the "Energy Star" approval. Always look for energy drains in your home by insulating your attic and water heater, caulk drafty windows, and close off unused rooms.

Small appliances and computers draw power when they're plugged in. Shut down the computer and printer when not in use. Unplug battery charger, toaster, coffee pot, and iron until you need to use them.



The Maryland – National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is proud to show off the newly installed 'destination' playground for the entire community to enjoy.



This playground is the first of its kind in the nation for the youth of Prince George's County. With issues such as childhood obesity are the forefront of our concerns, this is a perfect opportunity for our children to get out and exercise. Please feel free to take a look at our District's new jewel when you are in the area.

In summer, avoid activities that will generate heat during the hottest part of the day, such as running the dryer or using the oven.

Finally, explore BGE's Time of Usage Rate Plan to determine if it would lower your bills. Become energy wise. Learn what makes the biggest impact on your usage and explore ways to economize.



Council Member Ingrid M. Turner continues to Read 4 Success during her visit to St. Mary of the Assumption Elementary School on Thursday, December 2, 2010. While visiting Ms. Catherine Regan's 3rd grade class, Council Chair Turner read from the book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.

Council Chair Turner also visited Mrs. Kate Maas' 4th grade class where she read from the book, Frindle by Andrew Clements. Each student was given a copy of the book and a bookmark to take home.

More News For You

BGE Tree Planting in County and State Right-of-Way

In partnership with the BGE tree replacement program, Prince George's County has agreed to plant 60 trees in the areas of Old Chapel Road, Race Track Road, Mitchellville Road near Amber Meadows, and on Route 197 near Long Ridge. This planting will take place most likely in the **spring of 2011**. The County also plans to replace approximately 20 trees along Mitchellville Road between 197 and Northview Drive that were planted this past spring but have died.

Update for Tall Oaks Crossing Speed Humps

The traffic calming zone proposed for Pin Oak parkway is now in place. Speed humps were installed by the contractor on **Monday, November 22nd**. City of Bowie staff has also installed signage around the area.

Roadway Dedication to Fallen Hero Cpl. Thomas P. Jensen

The Prince George's County Police Department, Mrs. Kristelle Jensen, The Honorable Anthony Brown, County Executive Rushern Baker and fellow police officers came together to honor Fallen Hero, Cpl. Thomas Paul Jensen.

A ceremony was held at College Park City Hall to dedicate the 9000 Block of Baltimore Ave. College Park, Maryland, to the memory of our Fallen Hero, Cpl. Thomas P. Jensen. A new street sign was unveiled at the ceremony that bears the name of Cpl. Thomas P. Jensen, who died on March 9th after courageously battling injuries he received while responding priority to an emergency call on February 27, 2010. The new street sign will mark the 9000 block of Baltimore Avenue in his remembrance. Cpl. Jensen proudly served this department for 5 ½ years and was the 26th officer to die in the line of duty.

For more information, contact the Prince George's County Police Department's Press Information Office 301-772-4710.

Prince George's County School Board

As changes continue throughout Prince George's County, the Prince George's County School Board would like for you to be aware of new members of the board. For more information please visit <http://www1.pgcps.org/board>. To submit your comments about Board Agenda Items please email board.comments@pgcps.org or call 301 952-6115.

New Zoning Height Regulations for Fences

New Prince George's County zoning laws pertaining to fences have recently been released. The County now limits fence height to no more than four (4) feet, if the fence is located in the "front yard" or "side yard" as defined in the County Zoning Ordinance. This new rule also applies to the replacement of existing fences that do not conform to the new law. If you are interested in learning more about this requirement, please contact the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Permit Review Section at 301-883-5941 or the City's Planning Department at 301-809-3047.

Prince George's County Memorial Library News Letter Update

Would you like to know more about what's occurring in the Prince George's County Library System? The winter 2011 issue of the Prince George's Memorial Library System, "Current news & Events" magazine can now be viewed. Please click this link: <http://www.pgcmls.info/Current/Current.pdf>, to access the issue to find out more information about what great things are occurring in Prince George's County. For more information please call 301-699-3500.

Get Ready for Winter Weather!

December's cold weather and snow flurries remind us that the next big snow storm could come at any time. Residents are urged to make their own preparations for winter weather by doing the following:

- Make sure your car and your furnace are ready for winter weather.
- Have a scraper in your car and a blanket (in case you break down).
- Have canned food, a battery operated radio and a flashlight on hand at home in case power is lost.
- Check that your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector are working.
- Visit www.cityofbowie.org/snow for more cold weather tips.

The complete Snow Removal Policy for the City of Bowie is on the website. The most important points to remember are that when the snowfall is less than two inches, only main drives, steep hills and collector roads are treated. During larger storms and in severe icing conditions, all streets will be plowed/treated beginning with the most heavily traveled roads and progressing through to side streets and cul-de-sacs. Cars must be removed from the streets when two or more inches are forecast so that plows can clear the streets most efficiently. (Parking on grass is permitted during snowstorms if necessary.) Clearing sidewalks in front of homes is the responsibility of the resident. During and after a storm, dangerous road conditions can be reported to 301-809-2344.

Bowie City Council Selects Henri Gardner to Fill Council Vacancy

The Bowie City Council selected Henri Gardner to fill the remaining term of Geraldine Valentino-Smith. Mr. Gardner will take the oath of office at the Council's next regular meeting on Tuesday, **January 18, 2011** and will serve until November 8, 2011 when the next City election will be held.

The decision was made at the end of a Special Council Meeting in which each of the 23 candidates answered a series of questions from Councilmembers. In announcing the selection, Mayor G. Frederick Robinson thanked all of the candidates for their interest in serving and said that Bowie was fortunate to have such a talented pool of candidates. The meeting was open to the public and will be rebroadcast on the Bowie Government Channel (Verizon 10/Comcast 71) on **January 11, 13 and 15** at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will also be available for viewing from the City's website (www.cityofbowie.org) as a video on demand.

Bowie Safe Speed Program Expanding to Include MD Routes 450 and 197

New permits have been issued by the Maryland State Highway Administration for speed cameras to be installed on MD 197 and MD 450. The Safe Speed Program uses speed cameras to reduce vehicle speeds in marked school zones from the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday on Northview Drive and Belair Drive. In **January 2011**, the Bowie Police Department will expand the program to include camera operations on Route 450 in the area of Bowie High School and on Route 197 in the area of Rockledge Elementary. Notifications will be made through various media outlets and school organizations prior to the cameras being activated. Future sites, following County approval, will include Race Track Road in the area of Yorktown Elementary and Old Chapel Road in the area of Whitehall Elementary and Samuel Ogle Middle School.

City of Bowie Art Contest for Martin Luther King's Birthday

The City of Bowie is sponsoring its annual art contest for school-aged children to encourage them to learn about the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There are three contest categories: kindergarten through second graders can compete in a coloring contest; third through fifth graders can enter a poster competition; and middle school and high school students (grades 6-12) can compete in a graphic arts and photography contest.

Contest details and rules were sent to local schools in December. Cash prizes of \$25, \$50 and \$100 will be awarded to the winners in each category. Contest finalists will be honored at the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Program on **Tuesday, January 18** at 7 p.m. at City Hall. For more information about the contests, call 301-809-3032 or email ucooper@cityofbowie.org.

[Coloring Contest Form](#) - Grades K -2

[Poster Contest Form](#) - Grades 3-5

[Graphic Arts & Photography Contest](#) - Grades 6- 12

City of Bowie Christmas Tree Removal

Trees will be picked up every **Wednesday in January** with yard waste. Please make sure all lights and decorations are removed from the tree. Place your tree at the curb by 7 a.m.

Snow Removal in the City of Bowie

A Snow Emergency is declared whenever snow reaches a depth of two inches. All vehicles must be removed from City streets. The City begins plowing when the snow depth reaches two inches. All main drives, hills and collector streets are treated and/or plowed first. In the event of a snowfall less than two inches, all main drives, steep hills and collector streets are treated with salt and/or sand. Streets and cul-de-sacs that are flat or have only slight inclines with limited intersections are only treated in extreme icing conditions. During a snow or ice event only, it is acceptable to park your vehicle on your grass. Each resident is responsible for removing snow and/or ice from the

sidewalk in front of their home. To report hazardous conditions within the City, call 301-809-2344. A detailed explanation of the snow policy can be found on the City's website - www.cityofbowie.org.

National Anthem and "Voice of Bowie" Audition

The City of Bowie will hold open auditions for individuals or groups to perform the National Anthem at City of Bowie special events and for those inter in being the stage announcer at the Memorial Day Parade, Bowiefest, 4th of July and the International Festival.

Auditions will be held in the Studio at City Hall on **Saturday, February 26, 2011** beginning at 10 a.m. for the National Anthem. Participants must be prepared to perform the National Anthem a cappella for a judging panel. Auditions for the Voice of Bowie will begin at approximately 2:30 p.m. Candidates will be asked to read formal prepared script for a judging panel. The chosen performer(s) will be asked to perform on the dates of the special event and on the rain date this is scheduled for that event.

For more information or to schedule an audition, please contact Special Events Coordinator Matt Corley, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

AARP Driving Safety Program at the Bowie Senior Center

The AARP Driver Safety Program is a classroom driver refresher course designed for motorist age 50 and older. Classes are offered on **Wednesday, January 26 or Thursday, February 3** (a 1-day Course) from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Bowie Senior Center located at 14900 Health Center Drive Bowie, MD 20716. Upon completion of the one-day course, students receive certificates that some insurance companies honor towards a reduced rate. There is a \$12.00 fee for AARP members or \$14.00 fee for Non-AARP members. Registration may be made at the front desk of the Bowie Senior Center. For more information please call 301-262-6200.

Greenbelt Library Grand Re-Opening

On Saturday **December 4, 2010**, the official ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the Grand Re-Opening of the Greenbelt Library. A number of distinguished guest and elected official were in attendance to celebrate this special event. After six months of being closed for renovations, the library is now open with a state-of-the-art fire alarm system, a central customer service counter; five more computers placed in the children's area, and even cushioned seating on the back walls with electric sockets underneath. The Greenbelt Library is located at 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. For more information please call 301-345-5800.

Family Fit night at the Greenbelt Youth Center

On January 31, 2011 the Greenbelt Recreational Department has recently become an official "Let's Move City." In support of the First Lady, Michelle Obama's campaign and the Get Active Greenbelt initiative, this new program has been created. Family Fit Nights are designed to encourage entire families to lead healthy and active lifestyles and will provide a variety of fitness challenges, games, and activities for the whole

family. For more information please call 301-474-8000.

Electronics Recycling Day in Greenbelt

The City of Greenbelt will have their quarterly electronics recycling day on **Saturday, January 22, 2011** located at the Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770. Greenbelt residents, businesses and organizations can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items.

Accepted items include: CPU's, monitors, keyboards, printers, laptop computers, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, computer mice, fax machines, recording equipment, cameras, telephones, radios, and televisions no larger than 32 inches. Special arrangements must be made for drop-off of more than 10 items or items over 50 pounds. Please call 301-474-8004 in advanced and for more information.

After School Art Class at Greenbelt Elementary

The after-school art class at Greenbelt Elementary will be starting up again on **Wednesday, January 26, 2011**. Watch for a flier coming home soon! You can also find full details of this class, and all the arts classes offered at the Greenbelt Community Center, in the online Recreation Brochure:

http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/recreation_brochure.pdf.

Here is a selection of the classes offered for school age children:

- After-school art adventures, ages 5-12, Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm at Greenbelt Elementary, starts 1/26
- Saturday ceramics, ages 5-10, Saturdays 10:30-12:00, starts 1/15
- Throwing clay, ages 10-18, Saturdays 10:00-12:00, starts 1/15
- Beginning voice 1, ages 11-15, Saturdays 10:00-10:55, starts 1/22
- Creative Movement, ages 4-5, Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm, starts 2/1
- Pre-Dance, ages 4-5, Mondays 4:00-4:45pm, starts 1/31
- Pre-Dance, ages 5-6, Saturdays 11:00-11:45 or Thursdays 4:30-5:15pm, starts 2/3
- Pre-Ballet, ages 6-7, Mondays 4:45-5:30pm or Tuesdays 5:15-6:00pm, starts 1/31
- Pre-Jazz, ages 6-7, Thursdays 5:15-6:00pm, starts 2/3

- Ballet, ages 7-10, Saturdays 12:00-1:00, starts 2/5
For more information please call the Greenbelt Youth Center at 301-397-2200.

2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Oratorical Competition

The SPEAK! MD Oratory League, Inc. presents the "2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Oratorical Competition" on **Monday, January 17, 2011**. The competition is open to 2nd - 12th grade students and will be held at the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, MD at 1:00 pm.

Prizes will be awarded for elementary, middle and high school winners as follows:

- **1st place:** \$300 (Three, \$100 I-Series Savings Bonds)
- **2nd place:** \$200 (Two, \$100 I-Series Savings Bonds)
- **3rd place:** \$100 (One I-Series Savings Bond)

For more information please visit <http://www.mdoratoryleague.org/109756.html> or e-mail drking@mdoratoryleague.org.

Prince George's County Federation of Park and Recreation Councils, Inc. Scholarships

The Prince George's County Federation of Park and Recreation Councils, Inc. will be awarding its 20th scholarship in parks and recreation next spring. The scholarship will be for \$500 and will be awarded to a Prince George's County resident undergraduate or graduate student who is majoring or intends to major in recreation at a recognized college or university.

Applications, detailed criteria for eligibility, and the selection process can be obtained by calling Mr. Harlan W. Tucker, Scholarship Chairman at 301-262-1010.

If you would like to be included in our mailings, please forward your name and address to LCFerguson@co.pg.md.us. Please also pass this information on to other concerned citizens. Remember, as a team working together, much can be accomplished.

Together
Everyone
Accomplishes
More

"Working for YOU!"